

WYCKOFF (R.M.)

*Vital Statistics of the  
year 1879.*

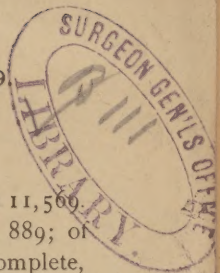
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# VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1879.

BY R. M. WYCKOFF, M.D.



The actual mortality in Brooklyn during the year 1879 was 11,569. The total number of births reported was 10,169; of still-births, 889; of marriages, 3,222. Of these three classes the returns are incomplete, whereas the deaths are fully reported. Estimating the population at 564,448, the annual death-rate was 20.49 per 1,000 persons living; while in 1878 the rate was 20.40 per 1,000. This latter may be signalized as the lowest death-rate this city has experienced since our mortality statistics began to be fully registered. Next to that, however, stands the low death-rate of 1879; so that the health of the city, as measured by its roll of deaths, was considerably above the average of recent years. A comparison of the total mortality during certain years, and of the rates proportional to population, may be instituted by means of the following exhibit:

Years.	Deaths by All Causes.	Differences.	Population, (Census or Est.)	Death Rate per 1000.
1879.....	11,569	494 +	564,448 E.	20.49
1878.....	11,075	287 —	542,739 E.	20.40
1877.....	11,362	972 —	521,864 E.	21.77
1876.....	12,334	136 —	501,792 E.	24.58
1875.....	12,470		482,493 C.	25.84
Average 10 years.....	11,320		455,000 E.	23.78

There were no deaths by small-pox, and no serious epidemic prevailed. Yellow fever occasioned two deaths (both imported cases), but it secured no foothold. Diphtheria caused 689 deaths, an increase as compared with the previous year. Scarlet fever, 344, a falling off as compared with 1878. The number of deaths by certain other of the principal causes was: by whooping-cough, 204; measles, 40; croup, 250; typhoid fever, 59; cholera infantum, 680; all diarrhoeal diseases, 1,258; all diarrhoeal diseases under five years of age, 1,076; malarial fevers, 150; erysipelas, 64; intemperance, 67; rheumatism, 67; cancer, 231; marasmus, 353; consumption, 1,665; hydrocephalus and tubercular meningitis, 189; meningitis and acute diseases of brain, 372; apoplexy, 229; convulsions, 241; all diseases of the nervous system, 1,238; diseases affecting the heart, 505; bronchitis, 479; pneumonia, 975; all diseases of the respiratory system, 1,632; Bright's disease, 256; puerperal diseases, 182; old age, 239; infantile asthenia and premature birth, 257; suicide, 37; in public institutions, 637.

By the five principal classes of causes of death, the number of decedents was: I. Zymotic diseases, 3,283; II. Constitutional, 2,574; III. Local, 4,379; IV. Developmental, 1,017; and V. Violence, 316. By seasons, the record was: For the first quarter, 2,832; second, 2,478; third, 3,398; and fourth, 2,861. By sexes: Males, 5,823; females, 5,746. By nativity: born in the United States, 8,341; foreign born, 3,228. Under 1 year of age there were 2,881 deaths; under 5 years of age, 5,201; and at 60 years of age, and upwards, 1,684.



